

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 8, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith and James McIlroy. Others present were: Mike Price, Steve Shope, Jeff Feenstra, Al Dixon, Fran Lane, and Brian Hart.

The Selectmen interviewed several people for two open positions on the Piscassic Greenway MAC committee. They explained that they are looking for a two year commitment from the two members appointed by the Town. There will be five members on the Committee – two from Newfields, two from Rockingham Land Trust, and one from the Fish and Game Department. The members will be responsible for putting together a management plan, determining the placement of trails, public access points, usage, and many other issues. The Newfields members must be familiar with the easements on the properties and must make sure that Newfields' interests are protected. Members will be required to attend monthly meetings in general and perhaps more often than monthly in the beginning stages.

Mike Price said he works well with others, was on the Open Space Committee, is very familiar with the area involved (he lives next door), and wants to preserve the Town interests. Mike can make the two year commitment required.

Steve Shope said that he has reservations about the time commitment, but if appointed, he would serve the full term and give a 100% effort. Steve spends at least an hour per day in the woods so he would notice changes on the property. He has fundraising experience and wants to be sure that the public has access to the land. Steve has experience in re-locating trails (knows the areas to avoid for erosion problems), and has volunteered for clean-up after storms and in general.

Jeff Feenstra has been in sales for twenty-one years, knows a lot of people, and is the Deputy Warden at the Fire Department. He has mapping skills and is not afraid to ask questions. Jeff can make the two year commitment required.

The Selectmen will interview the remaining candidates next week.

Al Dixon from the Town of Newmarket came to the meeting to discuss the Dispatch Contract. He said the formula is the same as five years ago – Newfields pays for the percentage of its use for the dispatch service – which is 16 percent at this time. In order

to change from a five year contract to a one year contract, the charge would be \$40,000. James told Al that the Town only budgeted \$17,574. for 2006. Al said the Selectmen could sign the five year contract to keep the cost at \$17,574. and cancel the contract in December, 2006.

Al stated that Newfields now has four full-time police officers with increased coverage hours which results in more calls. Five years ago there was one full-time officer. The number of calls has increased from 1,700. to 3,650. over the last five years. Newfields population and service area also increased. Al also said that if Newfields opts out of the contract, he will be able to reduce his dispatch staff by one full-timer. Newmarket has applied for a grant to update their equipment. Newmarket will have to pay \$35,000. in addition to the grant for the new equipment. Al also reminded the board of its other option to use Rockingham Dispatch, which is already paid for through the county tax.

James and Janet decided to wait until the full Board of Selectmen are in attendance to make a final decision on the contract.

The other item discussed by Al was the New Road bridge. He said the grant from the State is still available for 90% of the cost to re-build the bridge. Newmarket has offered to pay the remaining 10% cost and to take over maintenance of the bridge. Newmarket wants a bigger bridge to accommodate school buses and trucks. The New Road area in Newmarket is an ideal location for their new High School, but can't be accessed because of the small bridge. A new, larger bridge would also give better access to the Newmarket's industrial area.

James feels that a larger bridge would require another traffic light on Route 108 and that traffic would increase significantly in Newfields. He would like to wait to make a decision on the bridge until after the Route 108 Corridor Plan is completed.

At 7:45pm the Selectmen went into a closed meeting with counsel per RSA91-A:3II. The closed meeting re-opened to the public at 8:35pm.

Two letters were signed and will be sent to residents with regard to a zoning violation for failure to erect a fence around a pool, as well as a notice of violation regarding an easement encroachment. Both letters will be sent to the residents and a courtesy copy will also be sent to their attorney.

Brian Hart reviewed the latest changes to the proposed Easement on the Cole property with the Selectmen. Brian said that he will not send any drafts to Attorney Breed for

review without the Selectmen's prior approval. This is to avoid incurring additional costs to the Town in attorney fees.

Rockingham Land Trust has not determined the area to be used for a parking lot as of now. The plans will have to go before the Newfields Planning Board for approval once RLT has determined the location of the parking lot. RLT will speak to the abutters about the plans.

Brian will send a commitment letter to the Town of Newfields guaranteeing that Rockingham Land Trust will do the baseline documentation on the Cole property.

Brian will send the proposed Easement to Steve Hundley and the landowner for approval. James asked if the Board has the authority to sign the Easement – a bond is not being used for the purchase. Conservation Commission funds are being used for the purchase, thus the Selectmen have to sign the documents because the Conservation Commission cannot sign for the purchase of property.

Two tree branches went through the roof at the Town Hall last week. Janet and Wes worked on this situation on Friday. Wes got someone to come and tarp over the hole to avoid further water damage. Damage has been confined to the roof, the stage area, and the ceiling in the Selectmen's office. The insurance adjuster has looked at the damage. He stated that the Selectmen should consider replacing the slate roof soon as it is near the end of its useful life. If the roof is only repaired, more damage can be expected to occur with future storms.

Janet and Nancy worked on an emergency welfare issue on Friday, Friday night, and Saturday. Mileage and overtime were approved for Nancy for her work on this.

The estimate from Knipstein/Conner Enterprises to repair the damage at the Town Landing sinkhole was reviewed. James signed the Baseline Documentation Report and gave it to Brian Hart. One Cemetery Deed was signed, a letter to the property owners of a stone wall was signed, an Abatement Request Denial was signed, a Land Use Change Tax form was signed, and the audit for fiscal year 2005 was reviewed.

The letter from Attorney Breed with regard to the Cole property easement was reviewed, the letter from the Epsom Board of Adjustment with regard to a cell tower was reviewed, and the correspondence from the NH Division of Emergency Services was read. Nancy was asked to give this letter to the Emergency Management Department.

Elderly Exemptions and the Halls Mill Road Hammerhead were removed from the open items list on the Agenda.

Janet made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1st, 2006. Wes seconded the motion via e-mail. The motion passed with both in favor. James could not vote on the approval as he was not at the August 1st meeting.

Janet made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15pm. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer